

# In the United States Court of Federal Claims

## OFFICE OF SPECIAL MASTERS

No. 18-668V

Filed: May 23, 2019

UNPUBLISHED

HEATHER SHEEHAN,

Petitioner,

v.

SECRETARY OF HEALTH AND  
HUMAN SERVICES,

Respondent.

Special Processing Unit (SPU);  
Damages Decision Based on Proffer;  
Influenza (Flu) Vaccine; Shoulder  
Injury Related to Vaccine  
Administration (SIRVA)

*Eric J. Haag, Atterbury, Kammer & Haag, S.C., Middleton, WI, for petitioner.*

*Justine Elizabeth Walters, U.S. Department of Justice, Washington, DC, for respondent.*

### **DECISION AWARDING DAMAGES<sup>1</sup>**

**Dorsey**, Chief Special Master:

On May 10, 2018, petitioner filed a petition for compensation under the National Vaccine Injury Compensation Program, 42 U.S.C. §300aa-10, *et seq.*,<sup>2</sup> (the “Vaccine Act”). Petitioner alleges that she suffered a shoulder injury related to vaccine administration (“SIRVA”) as a result of an influenza (“flu”) vaccination administered on October 25, 2016. Petition at 1. The case was assigned to the Special Processing Unit of the Office of Special Masters.

On April 3, 2019, a ruling on entitlement was issued, finding petitioner entitled to compensation for a SIRVA. On May 21, 2019, respondent filed a proffer on award of compensation (“Proffer”) indicating petitioner should be awarded \$138,457.57

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<sup>1</sup> The undersigned intends to post this decision on the United States Court of Federal Claims' website. **This means the decision will be available to anyone with access to the internet.** In accordance with Vaccine Rule 18(b), petitioner has 14 days to identify and move to redact medical or other information, the disclosure of which would constitute an unwarranted invasion of privacy. If, upon review, the undersigned agrees that the identified material fits within this definition, the undersigned will redact such material from public access. Because this unpublished decision contains a reasoned explanation for the action in this case, undersigned is required to post it on the United States Court of Federal Claims' website in accordance with the E-Government Act of 2002. 44 U.S.C. § 3501 note (2012) (Federal Management and Promotion of Electronic Government Services).

<sup>2</sup> National Childhood Vaccine Injury Act of 1986, Pub. L. No. 99-660, 100 Stat. 3755. Hereinafter, for ease of citation, all “§” references to the Vaccine Act will be to the pertinent subparagraph of 42 U.S.C. § 300aa (2012).

comprised of \$135,000.00 for actual and projected pain and suffering, and \$3,457.57 for past unreimbursable expenses. Proffer at 1-2. In the Proffer, respondent represented that petitioner agrees with the proffered award. *Id.* Based on the record as a whole, the undersigned finds that petitioner is entitled to an award as stated in the Proffer.

Pursuant to the terms stated in the attached Proffer, **the undersigned awards petitioner a lump sum payment of \$138,457.57 (comprised of \$135,000.00 for actual and projected pain and suffering, and \$3,457.57 for past unreimbursable expenses) in the form of a check payable to petitioner, Heather Sheehan.** This amount represents compensation for all damages that would be available under § 15(a).

The clerk of the court is directed to enter judgment in accordance with this decision.<sup>3</sup>

**IT IS SO ORDERED.**

**s/Nora Beth Dorsey**

Nora Beth Dorsey  
Chief Special Master

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<sup>3</sup> Pursuant to Vaccine Rule 11(a), entry of judgment can be expedited by the parties' joint filing of notice renouncing the right to seek review.

**RESPONDENT'S PROFFER ON AWARD OF COMPENSATION**

## **I. Items of Compensation**

Respondent proffers that petitioner should be awarded \$135,000.00 in actual and projected pain and suffering. This amount reflects that the award for projected pain and suffering has been reduced to net present value. *See* 42 U.S.C. § 300aa-15(a)(4). Petitioner agrees.

B. Past Unreimbursable Expenses

Evidence supplied by petitioner documents her expenditure of past unreimbursable expenses related to her SIRVA. Respondent proffers that petitioner should be awarded past unreimbursable expenses in the amount of \$3,457.57. Petitioner agrees.

C. Medicaid Lien

Petitioner represents that there are no outstanding Medicaid liens against her.

**II. Form of the Award**

The parties recommend that the compensation provided to petitioner should be made through a lump sum payment of \$138,457.57 in the form of a check payable to petitioner.<sup>1</sup> This represents all elements of compensation to which petitioner is entitled under 42 U.S.C. § 300aa-15(a). Petitioner agrees.

Respectfully submitted,

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Torts Branch, Civil Division

HEATHER L. PEARLMAN  
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<sup>1</sup> Should petitioner die prior to entry of judgment, the parties reserve the right to move the Court for appropriate relief. In particular, respondent would oppose any award for future medical expenses, future lost earnings, and future pain and suffering.

s/ Justine Walters

JUSTINE WALTERS

Trial Attorney

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DATE: May 21, 2019